

PRIORITY APPARATUS HAVING PROGRAMMABLE NODE DWELL TIMEABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 Apparatus for determining priority of access to a bus  
by nodes in a group of nodes attached to the bus. For  
purposes of determining priority, the apparatus  
arranges the nodes in a circular configuration and  
selects one of the nodes as the "anchor node". The  
10 anchor node has the highest priority and the priorities  
of the other nodes are determined by their positions in  
the circle relative to the anchor node. Each node  
includes a presettable counter for indicating a number  
of times that a node may access the bus before the  
15 highest priority is rotated to another node. After a  
device represented by one of the nodes accesses the bus  
for a predetermined number of accesses the current  
anchor node ceases being the anchor node and the next  
node in the circle becomes the new anchor node. The  
20 priorities of the nodes change to reflect the new  
location of the anchor node.

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